

Colby driver dominates 2013

By Nick Schvien
Hays Daily News

Danny Carmen tried to have the champagne ready. He was told to shake it up well, and that would be enough to do the trick.

But when the crew chief for stock car driver Jeff Tubbs shook the bottle Sept. 21 at RPM Speedway in Hays and was ready to spray down his driver in celebration, something went amiss.

The cork popped out, and just a trickle came pouring out. Carmen's hopes of dousing Tubbs in celebrating his track title at the dirt oval was unsuccessful.

It was the only thing Tubbs, his family and crew didn't have pan out this season.

Tubbs put together the most successful racing season in his two decades of racing that began years ago as a teen in the mini sprint division.

The Colby stock driver won track titles at RPM Speedway in Hays and WaKeeney Speedway by large margins. In fact, all he had to do was sign in the final night of racing at each track in order to secure the crowns.

And he added two more track titles to boot — one at his hometown Thomas County Speedway and the other at Sherman County Speedway in Goodland.

Both of those nights came down to the final night of racing, and Tubbs secured the titles with great finishes.

And he wrapped up the crown in the Dirt Track Central Great Plains Stock Car Series this year, a special series of 10 races at different tracks throughout Kansas.

He won the IMCA state title as well. And he had an easy top-10 finish in the national standings.

Plus, Tubbs qualified for the big dance on the first night the stock cars competed at the 31st annual IMCA Super Nationals in Boone, Iowa. He finished 15th in the event's main feature that Saturday night. It was the first time he qualified for the big dance in several years of trying.



NICK SCHVIEN/Hays Daily News

Jeff Tubbs of Colby (37) used the low line to get around another driver during a stock car A-main event at the 31st annual IMCA Super Nationals in Boone, Iowa, this summer. Tubbs started 22nd after qualifying and eventually finished 15th.

"I guarantee there's not a race car driver in America that expects to win four track championships, a series championship and a state title all in the same year," Tubbs said. "Some guys don't do that in their whole life, let alone in one year."

Tubbs competed weekly against some of the best stock drivers in the nation, including Jason Rogers, his younger brother, Nick, B.J. Wagoner, Mike Nichols, Josh Hudson and Kyle Vanover, just to name a few.

Rogers even playfully joked Tubbs had something special in his car — a golden horseshoe.

"Not letting it fall out," Tubbs joked about the horseshoe. "Tell Rogers they do sell those at Target."

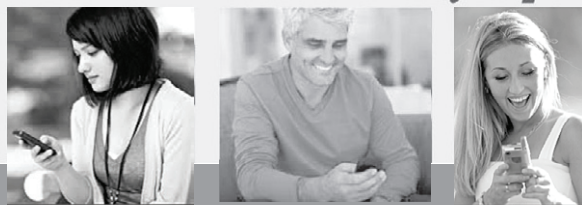
"There was one night we finished ninth during the series race where the front end was all cobbled and all smashed up," he added. "But instead of pulling in, you just drive through it and try to get to that checkered flag. That's what wins championships is not getting tore up too bad and taking every checkered flag you can."

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'Iron Bowl', Broncos-Chiefs are big games

Though Kansas-Kansas State has been added on the holiday football menu this year, it's comparable to that little glob of mashed potatoes Uncle Bob didn't wipe off his chin.

A few can't stop looking at it. Others fight an urge to laugh and point at KU's 3-8 record.

The fun could last for hours, until someone finally says enough and wipes that potato like a channel change.

Yet many will simply focus on bigger and better menu items, such as No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Auburn in Saturday's renewal of the "Iron Bowl".

It's one of several appetizers leading to Sunday's main

course: Denver Broncos vs. Kansas City Chiefs (again).

So how does *Free Press* R.B. (Really Big) Eater Headley (115-39 record) and Associated Press expert Ralph Russo (123-31) see this weekend's spread?

Alabama vs. Auburn: Both say Roll Tide. No. 3 Ohio State vs. Michigan: Russo says Buckeyes; R.B. wants to stick fat neck out and take Michigan, but says Buckeyes. No. 6 Clemson at No. 10 South Carolina: Russo likes Clemson; R.B. takes Carolina. R.B. likes Notre Dame to surprise No. 8 Stanford, Russo sticks with Cardinal. Both take No. 5 Missouri over Texas A&M; and R.B. takes K-State.

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